

NORTH PARK NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes of December 7, 2016 Meeting

Present:

Board members: Chris Fleming (Chair), Penny Bond (Secretary), Daniel Ferguson, Alastair McCollum, Jessie Rucker

Individual Members: Lorna Rennie, Pauline Cohen

Business Members: Geraldine Henry

City Liaisons: Coun. Jeremy Loveday, Michael Hill

Guests: Katie Nielsen, Shan Marcus

Regrets: Jenny Farkas, Pam Hartling, Katie Fillion, Paul Noble, Anne Moon, Charles Joerin, Allison Ashcroft

Call to Order: Chris called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Opening Comments:

Chris was acting chair in Jenny's absence. Those present introduced themselves.

Agenda:

Additions to New Business:

- Community Gardens — Shan Marcus
- Toastmasters — Pauline Cohen
- Directional sign on Blanshard St. — Pauline Cohen

Motion: to adopt the agenda as revised.

Chris Fleming/Daniel Ferguson/carried

Minutes:

Correction to December 7, 2016 minutes: page 3, Land Use Report, second bullet point should read "Norwood Group purchased...properties. Their client is Island Health. The proposal is to build supportive housing...".

Motion: to approve the December 7 minutes as revised.

Chris Fleming/Lorna Rennie/carried

Treasurer's Report — no report available

Reports

1. President

Penny reported, on behalf of Jenny, that two board members have resigned — Harold Stanley in November; Jem Engelmann in December. Jem has moved to Red Deer, Alberta. Thanks to both Harold and Jem for their work on the board.

2. Good Neighbour Agreement (GNA) meetings — Daniel/Penny

● Island Health - 1119 Pembroke — Daniel

- There have been many more needles found on Johnson St. recently.

- Statistics on needles collected have been requested from Society of Living Illicit Drug Users (SOLID).
 - Supervised Consumption Services (SCS) application was nearly completed at the time of the meeting. [It now has been submitted to the federal government.]
 - Regardless of any future federal changes, Island Health must proceed under current legislation.
 - BC Minister of Health, Terry Lake, currently is setting up temporary overdose prevention sites, including in-building for residents at 844 Johnson St., and possibly at Rock Bay.
 - The unofficial overdose count for BC in November is 120.
 - SCS staff are trained to use Naloxone, CPR, addictions treatment, but are not necessarily trained as nurses or EMTs
 - There was discussion about having a security rep present at these meetings, or an encounter report/log. A rep is present at My Place shelter meetings and had been shown problem areas directly by people attending the meeting.
 - Central Access and Rapid Assessment Services (CARES) has been set up with goals:
 - helping people who have no primary physician,
 - treating people immediately, rather than setting appointments,
 - single point of access to services,
 - combining drug and mental health intake into one
 - A new street nurse position has been added to replace someone who was re-assigned.
 - Assertive Combined Treatment (ACT) and 713 teams work weekends; street nurses do not.
 - Naloxone is being used to treat overdoses and Naloxone kits are being given out.
 - SOLID has not been represented at meetings for about six months. They are being contacted and asked to attend.
- 900 Block Pandora/Our Place Community Group, December 21 — Penny
- Our Place Security Director, Sean, attended and gave overview:
 - Minimum of two security staff members on duty: one at gate, one at desk.
 - Check at 7 a.m. for hazards around the outside area. General clean-up is done.
 - Desk security controls the movement of people in the building; works closely with Outreach Manager (Jordan). Security on the floor is handled mainly by the Outreach team.
 - Our Place has no authority on the boulevard. Staffers try to invite boulevard loiterers to come inside and take advantage of Our Place programs.
 - This allows staff to assess and get to know people.
 - Loiterers are reminded that they are part of a larger community and have a responsibility to respect others.
 - Security deals with incidents:

- Non-emergency police calls for nuisance behaviours
- 911 calls for imminent danger to any person or property
- On December 21 an OD prevention pod opened in the courtyard.
 - Open 6:30 a.m. - 8 p.m. every day.
 - Paramedics, and harm reduction workers from SOLID, have been hired. There always is at least one of each on duty.
 - When permanent SCS opens, the pod at Our Place will close. Our Place hopes to have a door directly from Our Place to the permanent SCS facility next door.
- Funding (shared by Island Health and BC Housing) was obtained to provide visible neighbourhood security for Our Place, Victoria Conservatory of Music (VCM), Johnson St. Community (JSC):
 - This security covers Blanshard to Vancouver St. and Pandora Ave. to Johnson St.
 - Our Place is attempting to coordinate with security at JSC in hope that one security company will be used for all.

● Johnson Street Community (JSC) — Penny

There was no meeting in December.

3. Land Use (LUC) — Chris

- Nothing to report.
- Clarification was requested about a Victoria Community Association Land Use Committee (CALUC) review item. A motion was taken to Council concerning mandatory mail-outs to members of community associations advising that all members can apply to be LUC members.
 - Jeremy clarified that the purpose of this motion is an attempt for all community associations to be democratic and inclusive.

4. Communications & Festival — Daniel

- Bulletin board repairs still have not been done.
- Chris is beginning planning for a festival. He suggested that it might take place on HarbourCats opening day.
- Pauline would like to see a heritage week, including a North Park heritage walk.
 - Victoria Heritage Foundation (VHF) provides North Park heritage walking tour brochures. There has been a problem recently with maintaining a secure display location at the bulletin board corner.

5. Community Spaces — Jessie

- There was a brief meeting with Jem before she moved to Alberta. The committee members need time to re-organize and follow through on ideas in progress.

- The deadline for participating in the City's fruit and nut tree planting program has passed. Mike Hill reported that there had been less interest than anticipated.
- Jeremy indicated interest in helping with Franklin Green clean-up, once Community Spaces has organized a plan.

6. Victoria City Staff — Mike Hill

- See attached North Park January Update.
 - Item 3: This phase of Visual Victoria now has closed. Next step is a draft plan. Neighbourhoods will have a chance to give feedback on this. There will be a public forum.
 - what places to identify with way finding
 - physical appearance of signage
- Jeff Brehaut, Acting Manager, Recreation Services — Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department and/or other City staffers will meet with NPNA in February to discuss noise issues at Royal Athletic Park (RAP).
 - To be confirmed whether this will be at the board or public meeting.
 - Pauline suggested that HarbourCats Baseball be asked if there can be a discount ticket price for people who live within a defined area close to RAP.
- In response to NPNA's reporting of street people climbing Franklin Green trees to recharge cell phones from overhead electrical sources, Mike talked to Our Place Communications Director, Grant MacKenzie. It was suggested that Our Place look at setting up phone charging stations. Grant will take this to the next Our Place leadership meeting.
- City staff will be coming to the neighbourhoods to discuss grant processes and how the community associations like them.

7. Victoria City Council — Coun. Jeremy Loveday

- 2017 has been declared a "Year of Reconciliation" with First Nations.
 - Conversations with First Nations will lead to plans for projects and activities.
 - Planned activities include construction of a longhouse on top of Beacon Hill.
- Council is engaged in budget planning.
 - Participatory budgeting of \$60,000 will have a kick-off event at the Atrium Building, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m., January 12.
- Dog owners can save \$20 by licensing their dogs before February 28.
- Council has extended the current council-neighbourhood liaison appointments for six months.

8. Membership — Penny

Nothing to report.

9. Place of Worship Updates

- St. John the Divine — Alastair McCollum

- Early stage review has started on St. John's precinct revitalization (interior). There will be a broad consultation process.
- Previous plans for affordable housing have been on hold after contaminated soil was discovered in the parking lot.
- **First Metropolitan — Penny**
 - Penny wrote to the Redevelopment Task Group requesting NPNA inclusion in discussions about future of Fellowship Hall.
 - North Park history and demographics report that originally was sent to FirstMet in October 2015 was re-sent with this letter.
 - Positive response was received, assuring that “that compatibility with Church and Neighbourhood values will continue to be one of our criteria in assessing re-development alternatives.” Also, the team asked permission to include the information that was sent by NPNA when BC Conference Property Resource Team is consulted in January (BC Conference is part of United Church of Canada governance).
 - Epiphany Explorations conference is January 26 - 29. More information on speakers is at <http://epiphanyexplorations.ca>.

Old Business:

1. VicPD education session — Penny
 - Reminder of education session on Wednesday, January 11, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the police museum off the front lobby at the police station.
 - Presentation, including Q&A time, is about how to make calls to police and bylaw officers most effectively, including who to call for what kind of activity, why dispatchers ask for personal information from the caller, what to expect if a non-emergency situation becomes emergent during the course of a phone call, etc.

New Business:

1. Community Gardens — Shan Marcus
 - Shan is is an Ecological Landscape Designer and owner of THRIVE Gardens & Living Spaces. Her landscapes merge good design with sustainable building practices, including the use of local and natural materials, food security initiatives and rainwater management tactics. She works with a partner, Julie Remy, a Health Coach and owner of Julie's Living Foods.
 - Together, they hope to work with community groups to turn haphazard plantings into beautiful sustainable sites.
 - Their aims include consultation with First Nations; space for community use; heirloom plants; attraction of locals and tourists; education about techniques.
 - Summary of Q&A discussion:
 - City gives tax benefits to residents for rain water management projects.

- There has been discussion with City staffers about their ideas. They were advised to reach out to the community.
- There is indication that there is some space available in both Franklin Green and Central Park.
- Grant funding could be available.
- Jessie is interested in talking with Shan and Julie, on behalf of Community Spaces Committee.
- Community Food Table meets at City Hall. Jeremy will give Shan the next meeting date.

2. Toastmasters — Pauline Cohen

- The local Toastmasters group has moved its meeting place to Sands Funeral Chapel.
- Meetings are at 7 a.m. on Fridays. Junior (up to age 18) Toastmasters meet on Friday nights.
- February is Toastmasters month. There will be open houses every Friday with refreshments. Pauline will send a community invitation to NPNA for promotion.

3. Directional Sign on Blanshard St. — Pauline Cohen

- it would be helpful to have a VicPD directional sign on Blanshard Street's southbound lane for people driving into town.
- Mike noted that VicPD has been flagged by Visual Victoria.

4. Alastair recommended that we begin our meetings with acknowledgement of First Nations territory. There was consensus that this should be done.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 1, at 7 p.m., in the Garden Cafeteria at North Park Manor, 875 North Park Street. Enter by way of the gate on the Quadra St. side of the building.